

JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 MAY 2005

New Claims

1. A process for preparing a liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo dyes, comprising a) preparing vesuvin from m-phenylenediamine; b) without interveningly isolating the vesuvin coupling an at least equimolar amount of diazotized aminoarylsulfonic acids I



where Ar is phenylene (which may be monosubstituted by sulfo) or naphthalene (which may be mono- or disubstituted by sulfo and/or monosubstituted by hydroxyl) onto vesuvin and c) isolating the dyes in their acid form and subsequently dissolving them in aqueous bases.

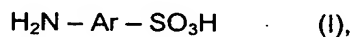
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the azo dyes are prepared from o-, m- and/or p- aminobenzenesulfonic acid diazo component.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein vesuvin and diazo component are used in a stoichiometric ration in the range from 1 : 1 to 1: 4.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the azo dyes are isolated by adjusting the pH to a value I the range from 0 to 4.5.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the azo dyes are crystallized by stepwise acidification.
6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the sulfonate dazo dyes are crystallized in their acid form at from 20 to 70°C.

AMENDED SHEET

Preparation of a liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo dyes

Abstract

- 5 A process for preparing a liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo dyes, comprising
a) preparing vesuvin from m-phenylenediamine; b) without interveningly isolating the vesuvin
coupling an at least equimolar amount of diazotized aminoarylsulfonic acids I



10

where Ar is phenylene (which may be monosubstituted by sulfo) or naphthalene (which may be mono- or disubstituted by sulfo and/or monosubstituted by hydroxyl) onto vesuvin and
c) isolating the dyes in their acid form and subsequently dissolving them in aqueous bases.